

is regarded as a very able man,—his European travels have made him to some extent an enlightened one.

His reign of forty-two years has been disfigured, especially in its earlier portion, by some acts which we should regard as great crimes, but which do not count as such in Oriental judgment; neither are the sale of offices, the taking of bribes under the disguise of presents, the receiving of what is practically *modajcel*, or exactions upon rich men, repugnant in the slightest degree to the Oriental mind.

Eernernbering the unwholesome traditions of his throne and dynasty, we must give him full credit for everything in which he makes a new departure. Surrounded by intrigue, hampered by the unceasing political rivalry between England and Russia, thwarted by the obstructive tactics of the latter at every turn, and with the shadow of a Russian occupation of the northern provinces of the Empire looming in a not far distant future, any step in the direction of reform taken by the Shah involves difficulties of which the outer world has no conception, not only in braving the antagonism of his powerful neighbour, and her attempted interference with the internal concerns of Persia, but in overcoming the apathy of his people and the prejudices of his co-religionists.

As it is, under him Persia has awakened partially from her long sleep. The state of insecurity described by the travellers of thirty and forty years ago no longer exists.

Far feebler than Turkey, Persia, through the
resolute will
of one man, has eclipsed Turkey altogether in
suppressing
brigandage, in subduing the Kurds and
other nomadic
tribes, in securing safety for travellers and
caravans even
on the remoter roads, and in producing
tolerable content-
ment among the Armenian and Nestorian
populations.

Under him the authority of the central
Government